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**For discussion**

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## Extension of the medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) 2006-2009 until the end of 2011: background note

*Summary*

This report has been prepared in order to provide background for the extension of the current UNICEF medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) 2006-2009 by two years, until the end of 2011, as proposed in the draft decision contained in the document E/ICEF/2008/18.

The proposed extension would allow the MTSP cycle to be harmonized with the cycles of the strategic plans of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Programme (UNFPA), and would bring the following MTSP (for 2012-2015) in line with the 2015 deadline for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

1. The current UNICEF medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) was approved by the Executive Board in September 2005 for the period 2006-2009. It positions UNICEF to contribute to the Millennium Development Goals and other key commitments for children through a set of medium- and longer-term key results, detailed in its Results Matrix.

2. The MTSP is at present undergoing a midterm review. The findings and outcomes of the review are presented to the Executive Board at its 2008 second regular session in document [E/ICEF/2008/19]. This midterm review follows the approval by the Executive Board of the biennial support budget for 2008-2009 at its first regular session of 2008.

* E/ICEF/2008/16.

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3. The Secretariat is proposing the extension of the current MTSP so that it would run to the end of 2011 instead of the end of 2009. This would have several clear advantages:

(a) It would enable even greater alignment of the MTSP with the Millennium Development Goals and the Millennium Declaration, and other development goals, and bring the MTSP cycles into full alignment with the target date of 2015 for the Millennium Development Goals. (Following an extension of the current Plan until 2011, a subsequent MTSP would cover the period 2012-2015.)

(b) It would harmonize the UNICEF MTSP cycle with that of UNDP and UNFPA, whose strategic planning cycles run from 2008 to 2011. This harmonization of agency cycles is in line with the provisions of the new Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR).

(c) It would enable UNICEF to continue to instil a sense of urgency with regard to collaboration and partnerships for the Millennium Development Goals and other national and international commitments, rather than having to move immediately after the midterm review of the current Plan to a further major planning exercise for a new MTSP.

(d) It would allow the Secretariat and the Executive Board to make full use of the in-depth analysis and findings of the current midterm review. These will enable UNICEF to make strategic adjustments to the MTSP and its Results Matrix, which will retain their validity for a further three-year period, rather than providing benefits only for the one remaining year of the Plan.

(e) It would allow UNICEF to devote more time and effort to strengthening the definition of functions and performance indicators for the next biennial support budget (2010-2011), which will be presented to the Executive Board in September 2009.

4. UNICEF would undertake in the last quarter of 2010 an in-depth end-of-cycle review of the full extended MTSP, which would inform the preparation of the new MTSP for 2012-2015.

# Annex

## Timeline for MTSP 2012-2015